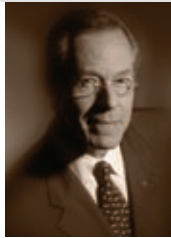


ERIC MOWER  
Erie Canalway NHC  
Commission Chairman



## Letter from the Chairman

As we head into 2007, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission and staff find ourselves in a very exciting place. After working with many of you on the congressionally mandated Preservation and Management Plan, we passed the last milestone in June of this year when the Secretary of the Interior signed off on the Plan. 2006 was the year we were able to start making this shared vision a reality.

The Erie Canalway staff worked with National Park Service interpreters and designers to produce a high quality corridor-wide brochure that explains the significance of the Erie Canalway and its unprecedented role in our nation's history. We also worked with four different communities to design and install outdoor interpretive signs that tell the story of the Erie Canal. These two projects are critical in our efforts to demonstrate how all the canalway communities are connected to each other and to the larger Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.

Partnerships are key to our current and future success as a Heritage Corridor. Thanks in part to our efforts, the Erie Canal Museum received almost \$2 million in federal and state funds they will use to expand the museum and upgrade their exhibits. Our collaboration with the New York State Museum, Canal Corporation and Canal Society continues on the restoration and interpretation of the historic motorship Day Peckinpaugh. We also continued our support of numerous canal-wide events including the highly successful New York State Canal Conference.

In addition to the many accomplishments for 2006 outlined in this Annual Report, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission made some key decisions on several projects that will take place in the coming year. 2007 will be the first year of an Erie Canalway Pilot Grants Program. This program will help to fund projects and programs that serve to advance the goals and strategies of the Preservation and Management Plan.

In 2006, we took initial steps in forming a fundraising organization to support the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. is a nonprofit organization now incorporated in New York State. In the coming year, we will establish the Heritage Fund Board and begin this important work to augment our annual federal appropriation with other funds to benefit corridor communities.

In September 2006, the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor entered into a unique partnership with the New York State Canal Corporation and the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum to bring the spectacular canal schooner *Lois McClure* to the Erie Canalway in 2007. The *Lois McClure* will travel 1000 miles in 100 days as she sails from her home port on Lake Champlain to 25 historic ports-of-call along the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. With this unprecedented "Grand Canal Journey" we hope to educate the public through presentations, exhibits, and other materials about the historic and present significance of the New York State Canal system and its communities.

2007 promises to be an exciting year on the Canalway. We look forward to continuing to work with all of you on many new projects throughout the Corridor. Please join us.

Sincerely,

## Corridor Commission

### Officers

Chairman Eric Mower, *Syracuse*  
Vice Chair Joseph Callahan, *Syracuse*  
Secretary Megan Levine, *Niskayuna*  
Treasurer Peter Welsby, *Lockport*  
Ex Officio Sandy Walter, *National Park Service*

### Commissioners

Russell Andrews, *Syracuse*  
Clinton Brown, *Buffalo*  
Bernadette Castro, *Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation*  
Mayor Victoria Daly, *Palmira*  
Charles Gargano, *Chairman, Empire State Development Corporation*  
Thomas Grasso, *Rochester*  
Carol Greenough, *Whitehall*  
Lynn Herzig, *Geneva*  
Christopher Jacobs, *Secretary of State, NYS Department of State*  
Christopher Lindley, *Rochester*  
Carmella Mantello, *Director, NYS Canal Corporation*  
NYS Assemblyman Robert Reilly, *Newtonville*  
Judith Schmidt-Dean, *Schuylerville*  
Kimberly Seager, *Phoenix*  
Denise Sheehan, *Commissioner, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation*  
Robert Shibley, *Buffalo*  
Pieter Smeenk, *Fairport*  
Stuart Stein, *Ithaca*  
Alan Vincent, *Little Falls*  
Peter Wiles Jr., *Skaneateles*

### Staff

Frank Dean, *Executive Director*  
Hannah Blake, *Community Outreach Coordinator*  
Mary Cunningham, *Office Manager*  
Lori Duell, *Project Manager*  
Duncan Hay, *Interpretive Planner*  
Beth Sciumeca, *Program Manager*

Cover photo by Bart M. Carrig

Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor  
www.eriecanalway.org | 518-237-7000

## Fiscal Year 2006 Appropriations

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission receives a Federal Congressional Appropriation.

### Income:

Federal Appropriation .....\$650,000

### Expense:

Heritage Development .....\$323,451  
Public Outreach ..... \$170,032  
Interpretation and Education ..... \$156,517

The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor also leveraged and matched these Federal appropriations with \$4.3 million in non-Federal funds by working with our state and nonprofit partners on numerous preservation and recreation projects in the Corridor.

### Formal Partnerships

Canal Society of New York State  
Lakes to Locks Passage  
Mohawk Towpath Scenic Byway Coalition Inc.  
Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor  
New York State Canal Corporation  
New York State Education Department  
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation  
Parks and Trails New York  
Western Erie Canal Heritage Corridor Commission



Erie Canalway NHC staff from left to right: Beth Sciumeca, Duncan Hay, Hannah Blake, Frank Dean, Mary Cunningham, Lori Duell

## Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

# 2006 Annual Report



The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor, working through a wide range of partnerships, is preserving and interpreting our nation's past, providing world class recreational and educational opportunities, fostering economic revitalization, improving quality of life in Corridor communities, and guiding the reemergence of the Erie Canalway as a 21st-century "River of Commerce and Culture."

# Final Approval of Award Winning Preservation and Management Plan

On June 26, 2006, Department of Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne approved the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Preservation and Management Plan – a roadmap for the future preservation and revitalization of the corridor. Secretary Kempthorne noted “The Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission has made a great contribution to the future of the Erie Canalway and upstate New York... I commend you for completing this thorough and well-informed plan, and for broadly engaging the citizens, agencies, and organizations of New York State in its development.”

## Erie Canalway NHC Brochure

A major accomplishment in 2006 was the completion and distribution of a comprehensive National Park Service-style brochure covering the entire Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor. The brochure provides maps of the Corridor, information on the historic significance of the Erie Canal, as well as general visitor information.

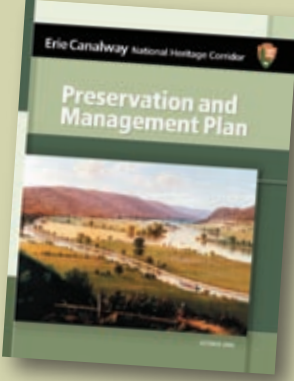
The brochure follows recognizable National Park Service design standards that help reinforce the national significance of New York’s canals and the Heritage Corridor’s place within the National Park System.



The Secretary’s approval marked the final milestone in an effort that began when the U.S. Congress directed the Erie Canalway Commission to initiate and implement a Preservation and Management Plan for the Corridor. The Plan garnered high honors from the American Planning Association’s New York Upstate Chapter in September of this year, receiving an Award for 2006 Outstanding Planning Project in Comprehensive Planning for a Regionally Based Plan.

The quality of the writing and graphics in the brochure meets the highest standards of National Park Service publications and has been very well received by our partners. We have made them available at various locations throughout the corridor.

Our next objective is to partner with communities to develop regional brochures of the same quality in similar formats. We are currently working with Partners Along the Canal Towpath (PACT) a group of organizations and communities in central New York to develop the first of what we hope will become a family of more detailed regional brochures.



# New Interpretive Exhibits Installed Around the Corridor

Residents and visitors to Syracuse, Canastota, Palmyra, and Rome now have a little help visualizing the past thanks to new outdoor exhibits developed in partnership with the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Design Center.



Wayside exhibit in Palmyra, New York

Eleven panels installed last summer utilize historic photographs, maps, and documents to illustrate the connection between the canal-era and contemporary surroundings. While providing glimpses into the past, each wayside exhibit shows how the Erie Canal shaped, and continues to affect the arrangement, architecture, business, and social life of communities that it ran through.

The communities played a key role in every phase of this project from providing input on the content for the exhibits, to helping with sign installation, to coordinating unveiling ceremonies. We are currently working on three exhibit panels to be installed at Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge on the Cayuga-Seneca Canal and are in the process of designing more exhibits for installation in 2007.

## Beyond Marketing Workshop

Erie Canalway NHC sponsored a one day workshop in Geneva on June 14th entitled *Beyond Marketing: Tourism Readiness in the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor*. The workshop drew over 60 participants who represented a wide array of communities and professional interests. The workshop

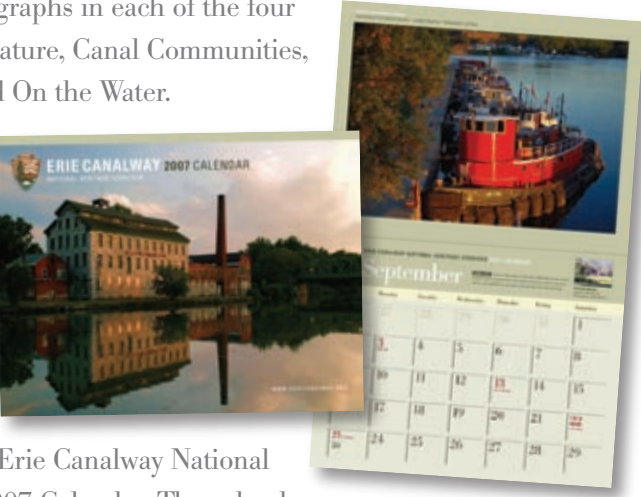
was facilitated by Elaine Van S. Carmichael of Economic Stewardship, Inc. The session provided concise presentations on various tourism-related topics such as cultural and heritage tourism specifics, visitor expectations and the experience, wayfinding, branding and joint marketing, hospitality training, and data collection.

Through a series of facilitated sessions, the workshop gave participants an opportunity to share their perspectives, let Erie Canalway staff know if they’re headed in the right direction and especially, to tell them what they could do to further help the region pursue heritage development opportunities. A workshop summary was made available to all participants.

## Erie Canalway Photo Contest

Erie Canalway held a Photo Contest in 2006 that generated a lot of excitement throughout the Corridor – and in our own office. The contest attracted professional and amateur photographers from around the Corridor. A panel of judges selected three winning photographs in each of the four contest categories: Nature, Canal Communities, Along the Canal, and On the Water.

Twelve winning photographs and eleven Honorable Mention photos, selected from the nearly three hundred entries, were included in an Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor 2007 Calendar. The calendars were distributed free of charge at various locations throughout the Corridor.



Our first ever photo contest was a resounding success and we plan to make it an annual event. Next year’s deadline will be in August 2007.

# Erie Canal Museum Expansion

The Erie Canal Museum in Syracuse received some good news this year when they secured \$1.2 million in NYS Department of Transportation funding. Erie



Erie Canal Museum in historic Weighlock Building

Canalway suggested the museum apply for the DOT funds which will allow the museum to purchase an adjacent building and remodel it for additional gallery and classroom space.

A New York State Canal Corporation grant for \$225,000 was also awarded to the museum in addition to the \$400,000 Federal Highway funds they received in 2005 with our assistance to revamp the exhibits in the existing museum.

The museum is housed in a mid 19th century building where canal boats were once weighed. It is the only building of its kind left in the world. The museum is one of Erie Canalway’s primary partners and we look forward to assisting them with exhibit planning and design to provide a first rate museum visitor experience in downtown Syracuse.

## Also of Note:

■ Since the opening of the Erie Canalway Visitor Center in Waterford, visitors have come from 27 states, the District of Columbia, and 7 foreign countries. Individuals and families have come to bike, hike, walk, understand history and to often just “explore”. As a stop along the “Cycle the Erie Canal” event route, the Visitor Center hosted cyclists on the last leg of their 400 mile trip across the state.

■ Restoration work continues on the New York State Museum’s historic motorship Day Peckinpaugh. Erie Canalway worked with NPS Harpers Ferry Center to develop portable interpretive exhibits to be used onboard the boat and we continue to work on longer term efforts to design exhibit space in the hull.

■ The Erie Canalway Commission decided to establish a nonprofit fundraising organization – Erie Canalway Heritage Fund, Inc. The organization is now incorporated in New York State and Erie Canalway staff will be working with Commissioners to obtain IRS tax exempt status and to recruit board members in 2007.

■ Erie Canalway continued its support for “Cycling the Erie Canal”, the eight-day, 400-mile bicycle tour from Buffalo to Albany that takes place every year in July. The tour organizer and Erie Canalway partner, Parks and Trails New York, also updated its guidebook to cycling the canal with our support.

■ Erie Canalway is partnering with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vermont and the New York State Canal Corporation to bring the replica canal schooner *Lois McClure* to the Erie, Champlain, Cayuga-Seneca, and Oswego canals in 2007. She’ll travel more than 1,000 miles, and visit 25 communities from Lake Champlain to Buffalo over a three month period during the summer and fall of 2007.

■ Erie Canalway was co-sponsor and played a big role in this year’s New York State Canal Conference. Erie Canalway staff worked on the planning committee, organized sessions, led tours, and helped with local arrangements for this year’s very successful meeting that took place September 24-26 in Troy, Waterford, and Cohoes.

